

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

On page 19, line 1, please delete the current heading "Claims" and insert the following new heading:

--What is claimed is:--

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A stamping film, such as a hot stamping film or a laminating film, for producing tamper-proof motor vehicle license plates, comprising[.] a carrier film (12) and a transfer layer (14) which is detachable therefrom and which can be fixed on a substrate (32) of the motor vehicle license plate,

characterized in that wherein

~~the transfer layer~~ [[-]] starting from the carrier film [[-]] the transfer layer includes has a transparent release layer (16), an opaque decoration layer (18), a transparent protection layer (20), an optically variable layer (22), a reflection layer (24) and an adhesive layer (30), wherein the decoration layer (18) has mutually spaced areal interruptions (36) at which the transparent protection layer (20) adjoins the release layer (16) and wherein the adhesive layer (30) is provided for fixing the transfer layer (14) to the substrate (32) of the motor vehicle license plate.

2. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the areal interruptions (36) of the decoration layer (18) have a peripheral edge of a graphic configuration.

3. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2 characterized in that wherein~~ the areal interruptions (36) of the decoration layer (18) are of small area dimensions which preferably occupy a proportion of surface area of less than 20%.

4. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a colored layer (28) is arranged between the reflection layer (24) and the adhesive layer (30).

5. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 4 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a bonding layer (26) is provided between the reflection layer (24) and the colored layer (28).

6. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the optically variable layer (22) is a replication layer with a diffractive relief structure.

7. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 6 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the diffractive relief structure forms a hologram.

8. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 6 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the diffractive relief structure is a relief structure which diffracts the incident light directed in one or more directions from specular reflection.

9. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the optically variable layer (22) has a macrostructure, ~~preferably an asymmetrical macrostructure~~; the dimensions of which are ≥ 0.4 mm and the extreme value spacing of which is ≥ 0.1 mm.

10. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the optically variable layer (22) has a matt structure, ~~preferably an anisotropic matt structure~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the optically variable layer (22) has a nanotext.

12. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the optically variable layer (22) has a pattern with first and second partial surfaces, wherein the first partial surfaces form background surfaces in the pattern and the second partial surfaces form pattern elements in the pattern, wherein the first partial surfaces have mirror surfaces reflecting the incident light or relief structures for directedly directly diffracting the incident light and the second partial surfaces have relief structures of a predetermined optically effective structural depth which are adapted as include absorber surfaces for the incident light so that in a given direction the light light which is diffracted or reflected at the first partial surfaces is present as a background surface in relation to dark, light-absorbing pattern elements, and in other directions the intensities per unit of surface area of the light scattered in the background surfaces and in the pattern elements are equal so that the contrast between the background surfaces and the pattern elements is markedly reduced or extinguished.

13. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 12 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the first partial surfaces are flat mirror surfaces so that the pattern in the reflected light has the intensively light mirror surfaces of the background surfaces and the dark, light-absorbing pattern elements and in directions other than that of the reflected light the intensities per unit of surface area of the light scattered in the background surfaces and in the pattern elements are equal so that there is no contrast between the background surfaces and the pattern elements.

14. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 13 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the first partial surfaces are mirror surfaces which are inclined in one or more directions with respect to the plane defined by the stamping film so that in the direction of the light reflected at the plane the intensities of the light scattered in the background surfaces and of the light scattered in the pattern elements are equal so that there is no contrast between the background surfaces and the pattern elements and in one or more other directions there are the intensive light mirror surfaces of the background surfaces and the dark, light absorbing pattern elements.

15. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in one of claims 12 through 14~~ ~~characterized in that~~ according to claim 12, wherein the relief structures of the second partial surfaces are a cross-grating composed of two base gratings arranged in substantially mutually right-angled relationship, wherein the periods of the base gratings are shorter than a predetermined limit wavelength of the visible light.

16. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in one of claims 12 through 15~~ characterized in that according to claim 12, wherein the effective structural depth of the relief structure of the second partial surfaces is of a value of between 50 nm and 500 nm.

17. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 16 characterized in that wherein the pattern has regions with various gray stages which differ by the optically effective structural depth.

18. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 characterized in that wherein the optically variable layer (22) is a thin-film element for producing a color change by interference.

19. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 18 characterized in that wherein the optically variable layer (22) has an absorption layer and a spacer layer.

20. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 18 characterized in that wherein the thin-film element has a number of thin layers with different refractive indexes.

21. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 characterized in that wherein the optically variable layer (22) has at least one polarization layer.

22. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 characterized in that wherein the reflection layer (24) is a metal thin layer.

23. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the reflection layer (24) is formed by at least one dielectric layer comprising an inorganic dielectric.

24. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that wherein at least one of the release layer[] (16) and/or the decoration layer[], (18) and/or the protection layer and (20) and/or the colored layer (28) contains at least one of a~~ UV absorber ~~and/or~~ a HALS stabilizer additive[s] for improving UV resistance.

25. (Currently Amended) A stamping film ~~as set forth in~~ according to claim 1 ~~or claim 4 characterized in that wherein at least one of the decoration layer (18) and/or the colored layer (28) contains amorphous carbon.~~

26. (Currently Amended) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate comprising a substrate (32) on which a transfer layer (14) of a stamping film (10) is fixed,

~~characterized in that wherein,~~

the transfer layer ~~has~~ includes a transparent release layer (16), an opaque decoration layer (18), a transparent protection layer (20), an optically variable layer (22), a reflection layer (24) and an adhesive layer (30), wherein the decoration layer (18) has mutually spaced areal interruptions (36) ~~at which where~~ the transparent protection layer (20) adjoins the release layer (16) and wherein the adhesive layer (30) ~~is provided for fixing~~ secures the transfer layer (14) to the substrate (32) of the motor vehicle license plate.

27. (Currently Amended) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate ~~as set forth in~~
according to claim 26 characterized in that wherein the areal interruptions (36) of the decoration
layer (18) have a peripheral edge of a graphic configuration.

28. (Currently Amended) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate ~~as set forth in~~
according to claim 27 characterized in that wherein the areal interruptions (36) of the decoration
layer (18) are of small area dimensions which preferably occupy a proportion of surface area of
less than 20%.

29. (Currently Amended) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate ~~as set forth in~~
according to claim 26 characterized in that wherein a colored layer (28) is arranged between the
reflection layer (24) and the adhesive layer (30).

30. (Currently Amended) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate ~~as set forth in~~
according to claim 26 characterized in that wherein at least one of the release layer[₁] (16) ~~and/or~~
the decoration layer[₁] (18) ~~and/or~~ the protection layer (20) ~~and/or~~ the colored layer (28) contains
at least one of a UV absorber and/or an HALS stabilizer additives for improving UV resistance.

31. (Currently Amended) A tamper-proof motor vehicle license plate ~~as set forth in~~
according to claim 26 or claim 28 characterized in that wherein at least one of the decoration
layer (18) ~~and/or~~ the colored layer (28) contains amorphous carbon.

32. (New) A stamping film for producing tamper-proof motor vehicle license plates, comprising:

a carrier film; and

a transfer layer removeably secured to the carrier film, the transfer layer fixed to a substrate of the motor vehicle license plate, the transfer layer including a transparent release layer, an opaque decoration layer, a transparent protection layer, an optically variable layer, a reflection layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the opaque decoration layer includes areal interruptions at a location where the transparent protection layer joins the release layer, and further wherein the adhesive layer secures the transfer layer to the substrate of the motor vehicle license plate.